

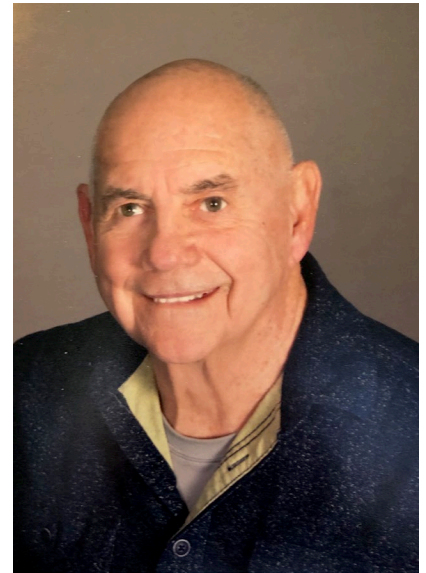


Billy R. Noland

US Army: Field Artillery | 1953-1990

Region: National Capital | Program: Frederick, MD

Billy Ray Noland was born January 30, 1936 in Moran, Texas. He graduated from Waco High School in 1955, and from Texas A&M University in 1959 with a B.S. in Industrial Technology. He earned his Master of Science in Management from Frostburg State University in 1979. Billy also graduated with honors from the USAR Command and General Staff College, and the National Defense University. He enlisted in the Naval Reserves between his sophomore and junior year in high school and maintained his military Reserve status while in the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M. Upon graduation he was commissioned in the US Army as a Second Lieutenant - Field Artillery (with 6 years enlisted service). Billy's tours of duty outside of the CONUS included four years in Hawaii, 6 months in Thailand, 15 months in Korea, 1 year in Viet Nam, and 5 years in Germany. Following release from Active Duty, he maintained membership as an Active Reservist and retired in the rank of Colonel. While working as civilian for the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency, Billy responded to the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant incident in March 1979. He also worked for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a national-level training manager at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Billy retired from Federal service in 1991.



Billy Noland has been an active volunteer in scouting and fly-fishing organizations for over 20 years. He has served as a Scoutmaster and in other adult leadership positions in Boy Scout, Sea Scout, and Venturing Scout units. He also served several years on the Francis Scott-Key Scout District Committee, and is currently serving on the BSA Troop 270 Troop Committee. Billy is a graduate of Wood Badge, which is Scouting's premiere adult leadership course, and he later served as an instructor in a Wood Badge course. He is past president of the Potomac Valley Fly Fishers, and the Brotherhood of the Jungle Cock (youth fly-fishing). He has been a Maryland State Hunter-Safety instructor for over 18 years, and currently certified as a Pistol and Rifle instructor by the National Rifle Association.

Although Billy has fished for Salmon, Stripers and False Albacore, he most enjoys nymphing for trout on small streams in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Billy has assisted as a fishing guide in the Frederick, MD area for PHWFF for about 9 years, and is currently serving as veteran/volunteer in the Frederick Program as a rod-building and fly-tying instructor. He admires and appreciates the volunteers and veterans involved in PHWFF throughout this region, enjoys the camaraderie, and sharing what he has learned from others along this life-journey.

Billy is married to the former Sandra Ann Barker of East Haven, CT. They have four children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He and Sandy are active members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Frederick, Maryland.



Calvin Norton

US Army & Army Reserves
Region: North Carolina | Program: Charlotte



Calvin Norton was born in the North Carolina Mountains and lived there until he entered the military in 1968 and served in Vietnam from 1968-1969 with the First Cavalry Division and the 75th Ranger as an infantryman. Calvin has lived in Huntersville, NC, for the past 45 years and medically retired in 2008. Calvin was employed by Federal Bureau of Investigation for five years as a Latent Fingerprint Technician and employed by Siemens Medical Devices for 35 years. Calvin has been married for 45 years to wife, Jean and one daughter, Lisa. His hobbies entail wood working, vegetable gardening, restoring old classic C-10 Chevrolet trucks and, most of all, fly fishing and rod building. He has been with Project Healing Waters since 2008.



Charles Hantz

US Army

Region: Tennessee Valley | Program: Louisville, KY

Charles Hantz was born on November 27, 1964 in New Orleans, LA. Mr. Hantz graduated from Biloxi High School in Biloxi, MS in 1982. Mr. Hantz received his Bachelor of Science in Dental Laboratory Technology from Louisiana State University School of Dentistry in 1993 and received his Master of Business Administration with a Health Care Administration emphasis in 2015 from Liberty University.

Mr. Hantz joined the United States Army in 1983 and attended One Station Unit Training (OSUT) at Ft. Benning, GA., following with completion of Air Borne School at Ft. Benning. Mr. Hantz was then stationed at Ft. Bragg, NC., at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center. Mr. Hantz finished his active duty military tour with one overseas tour in Germany and Ft. Polk, LA., respectfully. Mr. Hantz joined the Army National Guard in



Gulfport, MS., upon his ETS where he was a member of the Army National Guard State Shooting Team and completed his inactive service obligation.

Mr. Hantz is married to Kylene his lovely bride and he is a proud father to his three children Courtney, Gabriel, and Emily respectfully. Mr. and Mrs. Hantz are looking forward to being grandparents for the first time soon as their daughter Emily is expecting (thank you Emily as we are bubbling with excitement).

Mr. Hantz is an active volunteer in his communities both in Johnson City, TN and Pensacola, FL. Mr. Hantz volunteers his time with the Johnson City, TN chapter of Project Healing Waters giving casting instructions as well as fly tying instructions. When visiting his home in Pensacola, FL. Mr. Hantz volunteers at the Project Healing Waters there helping with casting instructions as well as volunteering at the First City Arts Center as a member of the Glass Guild, blowing glass. Mr. Hantz is currently studying the fly tying techniques of Marc Petitjean as to be able to master the use of natural materials allowing for a more buoyant fly (without using foam).

Mr. Hantz explains that Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is a safe zone for him. He explains it as it quiets in his head the thunder and lightening so he can hear the rain. He verbalizes the warmth that he experiences when he is able to teach someone how to cast so they can present a fly they tied and catch a nice fish. Seeing the relaxation and enjoyment of their own storm become quiet for even a brief time is priceless.



Danny Judy

US Army

Region: Virginia | Program: Shenandoah Valley



My name is Danny Judy.

I was born and raised in Upper Tract, WV. I am a retired Army veteran. My primary job was tactical communications. My secondary was Research and Development. I have worked in Security since my retirement. My hobbies are stamp and gun collecting. I am a beginner fly fisherman which I enjoy.

I live in Harrisonburg, VA with my family



Dwight Chrvala

US Army ARNG – Army Reserves
Region: Pennsylvania | Program: Pittsburgh

Dwight Chrvala (yes, named for decorated general/president Dwight D. Eisenhower) was born in River Edge New Jersey but grew up in Columbus Ohio, graduating from Westerville North High School in 1987. He went on to get his BA in Business Administration from Ohio University, where he was active in Delta Upsilon fraternity and joined the Army ROTC program. He graduated and received his commission as a 2nd lieutenant in May of 1991.

In the years that followed, Dwight served as a platoon leader with the BCo 1-166th INF in the Ohio National Guard. He moved to Pittsburgh in 1992 and became a part of the 1-110th INF Pennsylvania National Guard, where he was promoted to 1st lieutenant and eventually captain. Dwight married his college sweetheart Kristin in 1995, and it was Kristin's father, Ross Dillon, who taught Dwight how to fly-fish and nurtured his interest in it. Kristin and Dwight welcomed a son, Andy, in 1999 and a daughter, Miranda, in 2002. Andy will graduate from Ohio University in April of 2022 and deploy as a Cavalry Scout with the 107th CAV in September 2022; Miranda is a student at the University of Delaware.

Dwight's professional life has been spent largely in and around banking and finance. He worked for Lenders Service, a mortgage appraisal procurement firm, then Banc One Financial Services, and has worked for the past 21 years for the federal government's Office of the Comptroller of Currency as a national bank examiner. He enjoys serving his church and the opportunities it provides for volunteering.



Dwight took part in Operation Iraqi Freedom, deploying with the 1-110th to Camp Shelby Mississippi for a 6-month train up, and then spent a year (June 2005-June 2006) at Camp Habbaniyah, outside Ramadi, in the Al Anbar province of Iraq. He served as the S4 for Panther Battalion and took very seriously his duty to make sure the men and women under his leadership had everything they needed for all areas of their service, but especially to fulfill their missions as safely as possible. Dwight also considered it his duty to serve alongside his troops on said missions whenever possible; the physical part of Dwight's disability stems from being in several Humvees that took direct impacts from IEDs, and from the weight of body armor for extended patrols. During his time in Iraq, Dwight was promoted to the rank of major.

Upon returning, Dwight became the S3 for the 1-110th and then in 2010, he moved to the 10-80th INF Army Reserves to become an instructor for the Command General Staff Officer's Course (CGSOC), from which he retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel in 2019.

Dwight first learned about PHWFF through a chance encounter at Costco around the time he retired from the Army, but did not have a chance to become involved because the pandemic struck shortly thereafter. In January of 2020, Dwight lost his main fly-fishing buddy when his father-in-law Ross died suddenly. Though no one will be able to fill that hole, Dwight has been very thankful for the PHWFF events that have allowed him the chance to get to know other veterans and fly fishermen and spend quality time on a stream.

Dwight considers his finest accomplishments to be his marriage and children and his service to country.

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING

Erin Berg

US Army | 2009-2013
PHWFF Region: National Capital |
PHWFF Program: Walter Reed, MD



Erin was born on 9/12/1985 in Lincoln, NE. She moved with her family to Maryland when she was 4 years old and with a few exceptions has lived there since then. Erin graduated from Arundel High School in 2003 and went on to attend Temple University to study athletic training for 3 years before changing her major to nursing and transferring to Salisbury University in the fall of 2006. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Salisbury in 2009. Erin entered the Army Nurse Corps via Direct Commission in July 2009 and attended the Officer Basic Leadership Course at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX. After officer training, she was stationed at William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, TX. Erin served in many different roles, including staff nurse, assistant officer-in-charge, and patient safety officer before her medical retirement in October 2013 due to PTSD and Depression stemming from an incident of lateral violence while on duty at Beaumont.

In an endeavor to pursue her desire to work in pediatrics, Erin worked from January 2014 to February 2015 as a staff nurse on the Infant-Toddler Unit at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas. Unfortunately, while she thought she had found her "place and calling," continued struggles with PTSD and depression led to her resignation and some moving about until returning to Maryland permanently in January 2016 to be with family and friends.

PHWFF came into Erin's life in September 2018 while at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for treatment of a traumatic brain injury following a gymnastics accident. She found fly fishing and PHWFF to be the lifeline needed to continue her recovery and credits the people at the Walter Reed Chapter with helping her to learn to live, grow, and accept herself. Erin doesn't want to imagine where she would be in life without having this program. It has also become another bonding point with her mom after she persuaded her mom to try fly fishing and subsequently created another fishing devotee. They fish together whenever they get the chance.

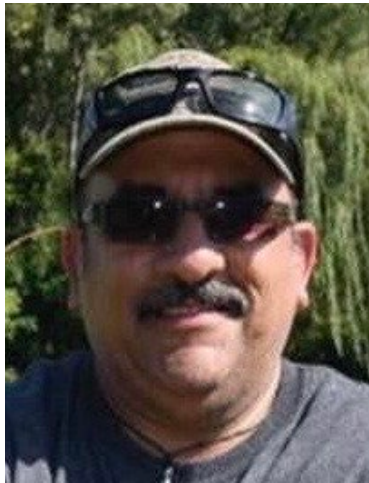
Erin is currently self-employed as an online tutor for students in nursing school and those who have graduated and are looking for help in passing the national licensing exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). She has been doing this since September of 2020 and thoroughly enjoys the challenge. In her free time, in addition to fly fishing and fly tying, Erin enjoys archery, reading, watercolor painting, loving on her faithful service dog, Shadow, and dabbling in various other arts and crafts.



Frank Magrans

US Army

Region: Midwest | Program: Willoughby, OH



Francisco “Frank” Magrans was born in Cuba 1961, came to the US in 1967 with his brother and parents. He grew up in New Jersey and after high school joined the Army Reserve and served as a Combat Medic with a 155 Field Artillery unit for five years. In 1985 Frank joined the US Coast Guard where he became a Machinery Technician and also served as a Federal Law Enforcement Officer. After 25 years he hung up his Coast Guard hat and remained in Ohio. Frank is married with four daughters and one daughter lost four years ago. He loves the outdoors and enjoys fishing and hunting along with other outdoor activities. One of the key things that he loves about PHWFF is being able to connect with fellow disabled veterans who understand the military way of thinking and willingness to be there for each other. He also can’t say enough about the appreciation he has for our PHWFF volunteers.

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING

Jonathan Rice

US Army

Region: Pennsylvania | Program: Harrisburg East



Jon is a retired 20 yr Army Infantryman. He is a combat veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan with multiple tours. He currently lives in the heart of Pennsylvania Fly Fishing country. When he is not at work as a Heavy Equipment Operator you will find him at the Creek fishing or working with his local Boy Scout Troop where he is an Assistant Scout Master.

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING

Larry Cummins

US Army

Region: Tennessee Valley | Program: Knoxville, TN

My name is Larry Cummins and I spent six (6) years in the United States Army Infantry with duty assignments at Fort Benning, Korea, and Fort Sill, OK with an honorable discharge in 1990 due issues with my knees as an E-5.

I'm a graduate of the University of Tennessee – Chattanooga with a degree in Business administration and have been employed at Stowers Machinery Corporation (Caterpillar Dealer for East Tennessee) for 28 years, with my current role being General Manager for our Allied Division.

I was introduced to the beauty of Smokies Mountains through the Boy Scouts in the 70's, and I'm proud to have earned the Eagle Scout Award. I was an avid golfer for over 40 years, but about seven (7) years ago many of the folks I played golf with regularly with had moved or passed away. I was sitting in a hospital room about this time with my father (and favorite golfing partner) watching TV and a fly fishing show came on and he told me he was to old (with several adjectives!) and I should go learn to fly fish and go enjoy the mountains again. I signed up for a class at Little River Outfitter and haven't picked a golf club since.

My mother has always instilled in us to give back through volunteering. About six (6) years ago she called and told me I needed to check out a program called Healing Waters (still listen to Mom). I did my research and joined the Knoxville PHWWF group initially as a volunteer, but became a participant due to my disability.

The reason I enjoy the PHWWF are all the positive aspects the program provides to our veterans who served our great country in assignments around the world. Seeing a smile on a veteran's face after catching a fish our tying a new fly for the first time makes participating very rewarding, and the desire to help in any possible to see more smiles.





Marcos Rico

US Army

Region: Alaska & New England | Program: Anchorage, AK & Newington, CT

Marcos is a U.S. Army veteran who served as a military intelligence Warrant Officer and many other ranks with 31 years of service to our Nation. A native of Cochabamba, Bolivia, S.A., he enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves in 1985 and attained the rank of Staff Sergeant before transferring to active duty in 1995. Marcos was assigned to 10th Mountain Division as an infantryman and served as a section Sergeant. Marcos was then assigned to the 172nd Separate Bde at Fort Richardson Alaska where he served in all capacities of an Airborne infantryman unit and served at each rank up to Platoon Sergeant. Marcos was injured in a parachuting accident and was medically reclassified to Military Intelligence where he served in all ranks up to 1st Sergeant.

Through his deployments Marcos served in 2003 during the invasion of Iraq as a common ground system team leader and worked as the web developer in the Analysis Control Element fusion cell. In 2005 he deployed to Iraq and served as Intelligence Liaison in a Military Transition team with the Iraqi Army in Tikrit Iraq. During that deployment Marcos encountered multiple Improvised Explosive Devices and was treated for TBI. Between 2006 and 2007 Marcos redeployed back to Iraq for the third time as the ISR Platoon Sergeant in support of 3rd Infantry Division. In 2008 he transitioned to become a Warrant Officer and served as a Human Intelligence Technician. In 2011 to 2012 Marcos deployed to Afghanistan where he ran a Field Detention Facility in support of OEF. During this deployment he was attacked with a Vehicle Born IED and suffered TBI and PTSD trauma. During his military service, he attended numerous training sessions including the following: Chemical Nuclear and Biological Course, Air Assault School, Rappel Master School, Master Fitness School, Drill Sergeant School, Air Borne School, Common Ground System Operator Course, Human Intelligence 10 level Course, Warrant Officer School, Warrant Officer Basic Course, Warrant Officer Advanced Course, and the Basic, Senior, and Master Instructor Course. Marcos has a Daughter Alexis, and two sons, Efrain and Diego. His personal military decorations include two Bronze stars, Meritorious Service Medal, six Army Commendation Medals, five Achievement Medals, Humanitarian Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Drill Sergeant Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Combat Action Badge, and Master Instructor Badge. Marcos developed a love for fishing growing up in Rhode Island chasing Cod and Blue fish out in the high saltwater's of the northeast coasts. When he moved to Alaska, Marcos took to the rivers and streams chasing the elusive salmon.



After retiring from the military, his doctors recommended that he participate in Project Healing Waters in Anchorage to help cope with severe PTSD, so he joined the Anchorage program during February 2017. Marcos enjoys tying flies, building his first fly rod and learning how to fly cast. As a participant, Marcos recognizes how much the program has helped him with his PTSD and he enjoys the camaraderie with other participants. Marcos loves to give back to the program by helping new and existing participants with fly tying as well as rod building.

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING

Paul Kelly

US Army & Army Reserves

Region: National Capital | Program: Frederick, MD



Paul Kelly was born in Washington, DC 5 Sept 1958. #6 of 8 siblings. He graduated from Brunswick High school in 1976. He then joined the Army in 1979. He spent 2 years in Northern Germany as an Infantry soldier. He graduated from a 4 year electrical apprenticeship at Local 26 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Washington, DC in 1985. After a 20 plus year break in military service he reenlisted after 9/11 into the army reserves as a construction engineer and basic electricity instructor. He did 4 one year deployments with the Reserves. One to Baghdad Iraq in 2003. And three to Afghanistan. His highest military award is the Purple Heart. He recently retired from the federal government with 30 years of service as an Electrician. 20 for DPW at Ft Detrick. Now lives in Adamstown, Md. with his wife, Annie. Two kids are grown and gone, two beautiful grandkids. He volunteers as a veteran liaison with the Frederick county Hospice, does weekly visits to nursing homes to see veterans, participates with a group called Partners in Care which drives seniors to the grocery store or Drs Appointments and small odd jobs around their house. He serves as a mentor with the Wounded Warrior Mentor program based at Walter Reed in Bethesda. Was founding member of the Poolesville Military Support Group which brought wounded military personnel from Walter Reed and Ft Belvoir out to the country to fish. The whole town got involved and we raised over \$100,000.00 for the Fisher House foundation over a 14 year period. He helps to train Service dogs for veterans with Warrior Canine Connection 2 hrs a week for the last 18 months. Retired from US Army reserves in 2015 and from federal government in 2018.



Kraig Laskowski

United States Marine Corps | June 1992 – August 2012
Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Frederick, MD



Kraig Laskowski was born in Trenton, MI and grew up in Rockwood, MI. He attended Carlson H.S., was active in sports, lettering in football and wrestling. After high school Kraig attended Henry Ford College in Dearborn, MI before enlisting in the United States Marine Corps (USMC).

In 1992 Kraig graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA, where he was meritoriously promoted to Private First Class. Following basic training, Kraig attended Marine Corps Communication and Electronics, Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) School in 29 Palms, CA and graduated in the top of his class for Radio Operator (MOS 2531). Kraig served as a Radio Operator from 1992 – 1996 in 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, CA. Kraig received three meritorious promotions while there and ended his tour with the rank of Sergeant. Following a one-year tour in Okinawa, Kraig attended Drill Instructor school at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC. After graduation, he was assigned to Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion at Parris Island, SC as a Drill Instructor and was promoted to Staff Sergeant during his time as a Drill Instructor. In 2000, Kraig returned to Camp Pendleton where he served as a Radio Chief to 1st Marine Division and ended his tour in 2004 with the rank of Gunnery Sergeant. During his tour, Kraig was deployed to Iraq and assigned to 1st Battalion, 11th Marines for OIF I and OIF II. Kraig was deployed to Okinawa, Japan for a three-year tour from 2004 - 2007, he was assigned to 7th Communication Battalion as a Radio Chief. In 2006 he supported JTF-536 for Tsunami Relief in Thailand. Upon his return, Kraig was promoted to the rank of First-Sergeant and was reassigned to Headquarters, 3rd Marine Division. From 2007 – 2012, Kraig served as the Inspector-Instructor (I&I) Staff for Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 4th Marine Division in Boise, ID. Kraig retired from the USMC in 2012.

Kraig received many awards and accolades throughout his career in the USMC, but his greatest reward is his family. Kraig currently resides in Maryland with his wife of 29 years, Michelle, and their son, Alexander. Living nearby is his daughter, son-in-law, and grandson, Hannah, Jacob, and Lucas.



Roy Cheeks

Marine Corps | 1992-2018

Region: Virginia | Program: Fredericksburg, VA



Roy grew up in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia and was very active in sports and outdoor activities. As a boy he would often go bass fishing with my father and brother on the Shenandoah River, near Harpers Ferry. Roy enlisted in the Marine Corps immediately following high school as a heavy equipment mechanic. He served in Camp Lejeune, Korea, and Albany, Ga before entering the Marine Enlisted Commission Education Program (MECEP) in 2000. Roy attended NC State University, in Raleigh, NC, where he studied Business Management. He received his undergraduate degree and commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps in May 2004. Roy went on to serve as a logistics officer at 1st Tank Battalion, The Basic School (TBS), Combat Logistics Battalion 22 (CLB-22) and Marine Corps Systems Command. Roy deployed to Iraq as a Combat Advisor and as a Battalion Operations Officer on the 22nd MEU. Roy continued his education upon retiring from the Marine Corps and achieved a graduate degree from Michigan State University in Business Management, Leadership and Strategy in 2019. During his 25 year career, Roy had the pleasure to serve in many leadership roles and serve beside some extraordinary men and woman and sought out Project Healing Waters as an opportunity to continue to enjoy camaraderie and spend time with people of a similar background, while learning a new skill and continuing to learn new things. Since joining PHWFF, he has benefitted by meeting new people with various levels of expertise and built new relationships. Roy had no experience with fly fishing prior to joining and has since learned how to tie flies, casting techniques and built his first fishing rod. Roy enjoys the cognitive aspect of fly fishing and the ability to learn and do new things. He looks forward to continuing to grow and learn as COVID restrictions continue to loosen and repeal.



Seyward McKinney

US Army

Region: Virginia | Program: Roanoke and New River Valleys, VA

Inspired by the events of 9/11, I enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduating from Glenvar High School in 2002. After my basic training at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina, I was transferred to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, and began my training as an operating room technician. After four years of active duty I had completed tours at Fort Lewis in Washington State and Fort Wainwright in Alaska, I received orders to report to Iraq and landed in the largest military hospital in Iraq, Ibn Sina, and a former palace of Saddam Hussein. Even though the hospital was located in the Green Zone, it nonetheless experienced frequent mortar and grenade explosions. Just months before transferring home, I participated in a surgery on the infamous Saddam Hussein in a heavily guarded and armed surgery room. After eight months in Iraq, I returned and was sent to Fort Lewis staying there for four years.



In 2007, while at Fort Lewis I began experiencing severe debilitating headaches. I was diagnosed with arteriovenous malformations, or AVM, defects of arteries and veins in the brain. In the next two years I underwent five surgeries (coilings and radiation). My condition deteriorated to where I experienced a stroke in 2009 that left me unable to walk, talk, or move my right hand and arm. I received extended rehabilitation at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. I finally could walk with a brace and talk (sometimes forgetting what words I wanted). I was told I had aphasia. My right side peripheral vision was also affected and I could no longer drive since the passing of the new regulations at the DMV in 2016. I still cannot use my right hand. At a young age, I was facing a very long road to recovery. On March 31, 2011, I returned to Salem, VA medically retired from the army. While I was back in Salem, I started suffering a series of mini-strokes in 2013 that led to a 20 hour surgery from which I successfully emerged minus the AVM.

I've been fortunate in taking advantage of numerous resources to help me in healing and adjusting to my new life. I competed in the Warrior games in biking and shot put, and in the recumbent bike in the Army 10-miler in D.C. I participate with Healing Strides, a group in Boone's Mill that offers therapeutic horseback riding. My participation in Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing has been special. They've taught me to fly fish and to tie flies with one hand. They've provided me special equipment such as fly reels, boots, and fly tying tools to improve my fishing and my coordination. Most importantly, I've befriended many other veterans and dedicated volunteers who make me again feel the close camaraderie of the service.

PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING

Tim Anderson

United States Army | 1991 – 2011

Region: Tennessee Valley | Program: Chattanooga



Tim grew up in Higdon, Alabama out in the country. His grandparents had a small farm and Tim loved the animals. He went to North Sand Mountain High School, and then on to machine shop training in a trade school. As a kid Tim always liked to play “Army” with his brothers and friends and wore camo all the time. He started working at Red’s Food Store as a bag boy and worked his way up to Grocery Manager. He also worked at Ingles and Food Lion and moved up to other positions at those stores. A career change then led him into working at Chattem Industries (Icy Hot, Gold Bond) in Chattanooga, TN. Being a strong patriot and loving the military, Tim joined the Alabama Army National Guard in 1991 when Desert Storm started. He trained to be a Combat engineer, then years later to be on a Stinger Missile Crew, and then on to Military Police. He deployed to Iraq in September 2006 for 13 months where he was in combat. Tim retired from the Alabama Army National Guard in 2011. Tim is married to best friend and they enjoy their children and many grandchildren. Tim says it’s easier being Papaw than being Dad. He enjoys his church activities, and especially the three years he has gone on a mission trip to Zimbabwe where he feels the people there are like family to him. Tim likes hunting, fishing, and about anything being outdoors. He has enjoyed many PHWFF outings since the ones where he caught his first fish on a fly rod in 2016, and his first trout in 2017. He has invited several fellow veterans to PHWFF meetings. He believes PHWFF is a great organization and offers veterans a real time of good, positive fellowship with others who have been through some of the same things he has been through. Tim feels it is awesome that he has tied some flies that *“maybe ain’t very pretty, but I think I can catch a fish with them.”*